

What is claimed is:

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1. An electronic still camera comprising a camera section for picking up electronic images of subjects through an image sensor, and memorizing digital image data of the electronic images, and a printer section for recording images on recording materials on the basis of the digital image data, characterized by comprising:

5 a main power source for supplying the camera section and the printer section;

a loading chamber for holding the recording materials in a position for allowing the printing section to print on the recording materials; and

10 a connection device provided in the loading chamber, for connecting the electronic still camera to an extending device that may be loaded in the loading chamber in place of the recording materials, for extending a particular function of the electronic still camera.

20 2. An electronic still camera as claimed in claim 1, wherein the extending device includes a supplementary power source.

25 3. An electronic still camera as claimed in claim 2, wherein the main power source is constituted of at least a rechargeable battery, and the electronic still camera further comprises a charging circuit for charging the main power source with the supplementary power source.

4. An electronic still camera as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein the supplementary power source is loaded as a package containing a plurality of rechargeable batteries.

5. An electronic still camera as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the printing section includes a printing head that records an image on an recording surface of the recording material while moving in a plane parallel to the recording surface, and a room for the movement of the printing head is provided in connection to the loading chamber for holding the recording material, wherein the extending device is sized to take up the room for the movement of the printing head as well as the loading chamber.

6. An electronic still camera as claimed in claim 1, wherein the extending device includes an AC/DC adapter.

7. An electronic still camera as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recording material is a self-developing type instant photo film unit with a pod of processing fluid, and the printer section comprises an optical printing head for projecting light beams onto the instant photo film unit in accordance with the digital image data, and a developing device including a pair of developing rollers for advancing the instant photo film unit after exposed out of the electronic still camera while rupturing the pod and spreading the processing fluid on the instant photo film unit.

8. An electronic still camera as claimed in claim 1 or
7, wherein the recording materials are loaded as a package or
cartridge in the loading chamber, and the package or cartridge
may be unloaded from and reloaded in the loading chamber while
5 the recording materials remain unused in the package or
cartridge.

9. An electronic still camera as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the extending device includes a memory medium.

10. An electronic still camera as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the extending device includes a hard disc.

11. An electronic still camera as claimed in claim 1,
15 wherein the printing section is of a thermal printing type.

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